Manual of St JOSEPH PRAYERS

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Arranged for
congregational or private use
Newly compiled
and translated
by
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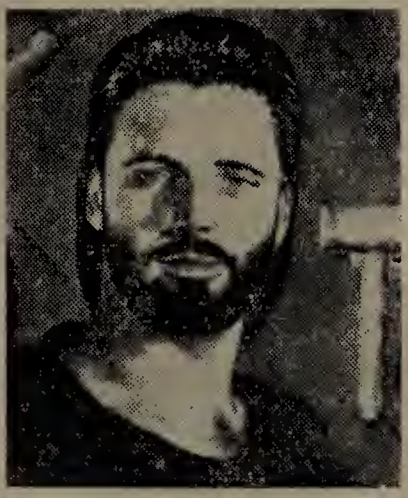

Numbers in parentheses after prayers refer to the 1952 edition of the **Enchiridion Indulgentiarum;** capital letters indicate the indulgence granted, according to list of indulgences on pages 47 and 48 of this booklet.

Imprimi Potest
William J. Schmidt, S.J.
Provincial, Chicago Province, Society of Jesus

Imprimatur
+ Samuel Cardinal Stritch
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INTRODUCTION

This collection of prayers — newly compiled and newly translated — is offered as a help to practice devotion to St. Joseph. Yet it should be emphasized that *devotions* to St. Joseph do not necessarily mean *devotion* in the full and true sense. Our prayers should reflect our devotion, meaning that we give St. Joseph special honor and recognition, first because of his dignity, and second because of his outstanding holiness. The Saint obtained this dignity because of his relationship to Jesus and to Mary.

We show our devotion to St. Joseph by asking his intercession in our needs, by showing sincere trust in his fatherly protection, by loving him as our friend, and most of all by imitating his love and service of Jesus and Mary.

Holy Mother Church gives us a most explicit directive concerning the dignity and holiness of St. Joseph. In the words of the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, "Joseph was the

husband of Mary and the father, as was thought, of Jesus Christ. From this arise all his dignity, grace, holiness, and glory. The dignity of the Mother of God is certainly so sublime that nothing can surpass it; but nonetheless, since the bond of marriage existed between Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, there can be no doubt that more than any other person he approached that supereminent dignity by which the Mother of God is raised far above all created natures."

According to the customs of his time, St. Joseph must have been about eighteen years old when he and Mary were espoused, so that he was almost twenty when Jesus was born. The espousal was a valid though incomplete marriage, according to the prevailing custom. A second ceremony occurred about a year later, when the groom took the bride into his house. Thus, Joseph and Mary were united in a genuine marriage, belonging to each other as husband and wife, but not making use of their marriage rights because of the special vocation God had planned for them. God gave Jesus miraculously to Mary, Joseph's wife, and therefore through her, to Joseph. This meant

that Jesus became part of Joseph's family, and the spiritual bond of true parenthood existed between Joseph and Jesus.

After Joseph took care of our Lord and our Lady, loving them as "Head of the Holy Family," he died in all likelihood before the end of the Hidden Life. This was providential, for God had wanted him to appear temporarily in the public eye as the natural father of Jesus. If he had lived during the Public Life, his presence would have made it harder for our Lord to proclaim divine origin and the divine message. However, we must not forget that even though Joseph did not generate Jesus, he is father of Christ in every other respect, and his fatherly love and service give him an intimacy with Jesus surpassed by no one else except Mary, the immaculate Mother of God.

NOVENA

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, * faithful follower of Jesus Christ, * to you do we come * to ask your powerful intercession * in obtaining from the merciful Heart of Jesus * all the helps and graces * that we need for our spiritual and temporal welfare * and in particular * the grace of a happy death * and the special favor we now implore * (*silently recall the grace you are requesting*) O guardian of the Word Incarnate, * we know with confidence * that your prayers on our behalf * will be graciously heard before the throne of God, * and that God will grant us * whatever is for His greater glory * and for our greatest good. *

℣. O glorious St. Joseph * through your love of Jesus Christ * and for the glory of His name, *

℟. Hear our prayers and ask God to grant our petitions * (*Say this versicle and response seven times in honor of the Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph*)

LET US PRAY

O glorious St. Joseph * spouse of the Immaculate Virgin * obtain for us * pure, humble, and charitable hearts, * and perfect conformity to the will of God. * Be our guide, * our father and model during life * so that we may merit * to die as you did * in the arms of Jesus and Mary. * Dear St. Joseph * foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ, * true spouse of the Virgin Mother of God * pray for us.

(No. 460; As a novena prayer, B J) (No. 466; L) No. 467; M) (No. 468; N) (No. 469; O)

TO ST. JOSEPH

TO OBTAIN A SPECIAL FAVOR

O blessed St. Joseph, * tender-hearted father, * faithful guardian of Jesus, * chaste spouse of the Mother of God, * I pray and beseech you * to offer to God the Father * His divine Son, bathed in blood on the cross for sinners, * and through the most holy name of Jesus * obtain for us of the Eternal Father * the favor we implore (*here mention silently the favor requested*).

Appease the divine anger * so justly aroused by our sins; * beg of Jesus mercy for your children. * Amid the splendors of eternity * do not forget the sorrows of those who suffer * those who pray * those who weep; * stay the almighty arm which smites us * that by your prayers * and those of your most holy spouse, * the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be moved to pity and to pardon. Amen.

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God, the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Illustrious son of David,
Splendor of patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster father of the Son of God,
Watchful defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most courageous,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,

have mercy on us — pray for us

Model of all who work,
Glory of family life,
Guardian of virgins,
Mainstay of families,
Consolation of the afflicted,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of holy Church,
pray for us

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

℣. He made him master of His house.

℟. And ruler of all His possessions.

Let us pray

O God, * who in Your ineffable providence * deigned to choose blessed Joseph * as the spouse of Your most holy Mother, * grant, we ask, * that we may be worthy * to have him for our intercessor in heaven, * whom on earth * we venerate as our protector, * You Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

(No. 462; H J)

THE MEMORARE TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember, * O most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, * Saint Joseph, my beloved patron, * that never was it heard * that any one invoked your patronage * and sought your aid * without being comforted. * With this confidence * I come into your sight * and fervently commend myself to you. * O foster father of the Redeemer, * do not despise my prayer, * but receive it graciously. Amen.

(No. 472; D)

FOR THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH (including consecration to St. Joseph)

O glorious Saint Joseph, * chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, * chaste spouse of Mary ever Virgin, * head of the Holy Family, * and therefore appointed by the Vicar of Christ * as the heavenly patron and defender * of the Church founded by Jesus, * with fullest confidence I implore at this moment * your powerful aid for all the

Church militant. * With your truly fatherly love * protect in a special way * the Supreme Pontiff and all bishops and priests * united to the Holy See of Peter. * Be the defender * of all who labor for souls * amid this life's trials and tribulations, * and bring all peoples of the earth * to submit themselves to the Church, * the necessary means of salvation for all men. *

Be pleased also, O dear Saint Joseph, * to accept the consecration * which I now make of myself to you. * I dedicate myself wholly to you, * that you may always be my father, * my patron * and my guide in the way of salvation. * Obtain for me a great purity of heart, * and a fervent love of the interior life. * Grant, that following your example, * I may direct all my actions to the greater glory of God, * in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, * with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, * and with you. * Finally, pray for me, * that I may share in the peace and joy * which you possessed in your holy death. Amen.

(No. 474; D)

TO ST. JOSEPH
FOR CONFORMITY TO GOD'S WILL

Great Saint Joseph, * to whose will the Savior subjected Himself, * obtain for me the grace to subject myself * in all things to the will of God. * Through the merits you obtained * when in the darkness of night you obeyed the angel's commands, * ask for me this grace, * that nothing may detain me from fulfilling the will of God * with perfect conformity. * In the stable at Bethlehem, * on the flight to Egypt, * you recommended yourself and those dear to you * to divine Providence. * Ask for me this same grace * to conform myself to the will of God * in discouragement and despondency, * in health and in sickness, * in happiness and in misfortune, * in success and in failure * so that nothing may disturb the tranquillity of my soul * in obediently following the way of God for me. Amen.

IN HONOR OF THE SORROWS AND JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

1.

O chaste spouse of most holy Mary, * glorious Saint Joseph, * great was the trouble and anguish in your heart * when you were perplexed * over putting away your immaculate spouse, * yet your joy was ineffable * when the sublime mystery of the Incarnation * was revealed to you by the angel. *

By this sorrow and this joy * we ask you to comfort our souls * both now and in the sorrows of our final hour * with the joy of a good life * and a holy death like your own * in the company of Jesus and Mary.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

2.

Most blessed patriarch, * glorious Saint Joseph, * chosen for the office of foster father of the Word made flesh, * the sorrow

which you felt * when you saw the Infant Jesus born amid such poverty * was suddenly turned into heavenly joy * when you heard the song of the angels, * and when you saw the glory * of that resplendent night. *

By this sorrow and this joy, * we ask you to obtain for us * that after the course of this life * we may pass onward * to hear angelic songs of praise * and to rejoice in the splendors of heavenly glory.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

3.

Obedient follower of the law of God, * glorious Saint Joseph, * the Precious Blood * which flowed at the circumcision of the Infant Jesus * caused your heart to be pierced, * but the name of Jesus * gave you new life * and filled you with peace. *

By this sorrow and this joy, * obtain for us * that by being free from all sin during

life * we may die in joy * with the most holy name of Jesus * in our hearts and on our lips.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

4.

O faithful saint, * glorious Saint Joseph, * who took part in the mysteries of our Redemption, * the prophecy of Simeon * about the future sufferings of Jesus and Mary * brought mortal fear to you * but at the same time filled you with blessed joy * for the salvation and glorious resurrection * which he prophesied would follow * for numberless souls. *

By this sorrow and this joy * obtain for us * that we may be among those * who through the merits of Jesus * and the intercession of the Virgin Mother * are to rise in glory.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

5.

O watchful guardian of the incarnate Son of God, * glorious Saint Joseph, * what toil was yours * in supporting and serving the Son of the Most High, * especially when you were forced * to flee into Egypt; * yet what joy you felt * having God Himself always with you * and seeing the idols of Egypt * fall to the ground. *

By this sorrow and this joy * obtain for us * that we may keep the infernal tyrant far distant * especially by flight from occasions of sin; * and that every idol of earthly affection * may fall from our hearts; * and being wholly employed in the service of Jesus and Mary * for them alone * may we live and happily die.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

6.

O angel on earth, * glorious Saint Joseph, * how you marveled * to have the King of heaven * subject to your commands; *

though your consolation in leading Him out of Egypt * was troubled by fear of Archelaus, * nevertheless, being assured by the angel, * you lived in joy at Nazareth * with Jesus and Mary. *

By this sorrow and this joy, * obtain for us * that our hearts may be freed from harmful fears, * and that we may have peace of conscience * living in security with Jesus and Mary * and also dying in their company.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

7.

Pattern of all holiness, * glorious Saint Joseph, * when you lost the Child Jesus * through no fault of your own, * with great sorrow you sought Him for three days, * until you rejoiced exceedingly * in finding Him in the temple amid the doctors. *

By this sorrow and this joy, * we ask you most earnestly * to prevent us from ever losing Jesus * by grave sin; * but if through

supreme misfortune we would lose Him, * grant that we may seek Him with untiring sorrow, * until we find Him again, * particularly at the hour of death. * May we pass onward * to enjoy His presence in heaven, * and there with you, * to chant forever His divine mercies.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

Antiphon: Jesus Himself was about thirty years old, * being as was supposed, the Son of Joseph.

℣. Pray for us, saint Joseph.

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O God, * who in Your ineffable providence * deigned to choose blessed Joseph * as the spouse of Your most holy Mother, * grant, we ask, * that we may be worthy * to have him for our intercessor in heaven, * whom on earth * we venerate as our protector, * You Who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen.

(No. 470; H J)

"GO TO JOSEPH"

1.

In the trials of this vale of tears, * to whom shall we have recourse in our unhappiness * if not to you, * to whom your beloved spouse Mary * entrusted all her precious treasures, * to keep them for our benefit? * "Go to my spouse Joseph," * Mary seems to say to us, * "and he will console you, * he will give you relief * from the evils which press you down, * he will make you happy and at peace." * Have pity on us, therefore, *O Saint Joseph, * have pity on us * through that love which you fostered * toward a spouse so worthy and so lovable.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

2.

We are fully aware * that we have aroused the justice of God by our sins, * and that we merit His most severe punishments. * What will be our place of refuge? * In what haven will we be able * to obtain safety? * "Go to Joseph," * Jesus seems to say to us, * "go to Joseph * with whom I was well pleased, * he whom I received and regarded as a

father. * To him as to a father * I have granted all power, * that he may use it for your welfare * as he so wishes. * "Have pity on us, therefore, * O Saint Joseph, * have pity on us * through that love which you bore * toward a Son so worthy of respect and so dear.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

3.

Unfortunately, we confess, * the sins we have committed * call down on our heads * the most severe punishments. * But to what ark shall we flee * in order to be saved? * What will be the rainbow that brings blessings * to comfort us in our affliction? * "Go to Joseph," * the Eternal Father seems to say to us, * "go to him who took my place on earth * with regard to My Son made man. * I put My Son in his care * — the everlasting source of grace. * All graces, then, are in his hands." * Have pity on us, therefore, * O Saint Joseph, have pity on us, * by that great love you had for God, * who has been so generous to you.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

(No. 471; E J)

"THIRTY DAYS' PRAYER"

In Honor of the Thirty Years Spent with Jesus and Mary (For any special intention)

Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, * kind and indulgent father, * compassionate friend of all in sorrow, * through that bitter grief * with which your heart was filled * when you beheld the sufferings of the infant Savior, * and when in prophetic view * you contemplated His ignominious passion and death, * I ask of you, * take pity on me, * who am poor and needy. * Counsel me in my doubts, * console me in my anxieties.*

You are the good father and protector of orphans; * the advocate of the defenceless; * the patron of those who are in need and desolate. * Do not, then, disregard my petition. * My sins have drawn down upon me * the just displeasure of my God, * and I am surrounded with sorrows. * To you, do I come, * O loving guardian of the holy family of Nazareth, * for shelter and protection. *

Listen with a father's solicitude, * I ask of you, * to the earnest prayer of your needy

supplicant, * and obtain for me the object of my petition. *

I ask it * by the infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, * which led Him to take on our nature, * to be born into this world of sorrow. * I ask it * by that humility which filled your heart * when you were awed * by the mystery wrought in your immaculate spouse, * and you regarded yourself unworthy of her.*

I ask it * by that weariness, solicitude, and suffering * when at Bethlehem you sought shelter for the holy Virgin, * and you were obliged to consent * that the Queen of the world * should bear the world's Redeemer * in a wretched stable.

I ask it * by the painful blood-shedding you witnessed at His circumcision. * I ask it * by the sweetness and power * of the sacred name Jesus * which you conferred on the adorable Infant. *

I ask it * by the deadly anguish inflicted on you * by the prophecy of holy Simeon, * which declared the child Jesus and His holy mother * the future victims of our sins * and of their own great love for us. *

I ask it * through the sorrow and anguish which filled your soul * when the angel declared to you * that the life of the child Jesus * was sought by His enemies, * and to avoid their impious designs * you were forced to flee into Egypt * with Him and His blessed mother. *

I ask it * by all the pains, fatigues, and toils * of that long and dangerous journey. * I ask it * by all the sorrows you endured when in Egypt, * when sometimes you were not able * even by the sweat of your brow * to procure ample food for your family. *

I ask it * by all your solicitude * to protect the sacred Child and His immaculate mother * during your second journey * when you were ordered * to return to your native country. * I ask it * by your peaceful dwelling in Nazareth, * where so many joys and sorrows were mingled. *

I ask it * by your extreme affliction * in being three days deprived * of the company of the adorable Child. * I ask it * by your joy in finding Him in the Temple, * and by the ineffable consolation * imparted to you in the cottage of Nazareth, * while living in

the company of the infant Jesus. * I ask it * by that wonderful condescension, * by which He subjected Himself * to your will. *

I ask it * by that sorrowful foresight * continually in your mind * of all that Jesus was to suffer * when you would no longer be at His side. *

I ask it * by that painful contemplation * by which you foresaw those divine infant hands and feet * now so active in serving you, * and one day to be pierced with cruel nails: * that head resting gently on your breast * one day crowned with sharp thorns; * that delicate body, * now tenderly folded in your mantle and pressed to your heart, * one day stripped, mangled, * and extended on the Cross. *

I ask it * by the heroic sacrifice of your will and most precious love * by which you offered to the Eternal Father * the last awful moment * when the God-man was to die for our salvation. *

I ask it * by your perfect love and conformity * with which you received the divine command * to depart from this life * and from the company of Jesus and Mary. * I ask it * by the exceeding joy filling your soul * when the Redeemer of the world * triumphant over death and hell * entered into the possession of His kingdom * and led you also into it * with special honor. *

I ask it * through Mary's glorious Assumption * and through the eternal happiness * which with her you will have eternally * from the vision of God. *

O good St. Joseph, * I ask you * by all your sufferings, sorrows, and joys, * hear me and obtain the grant of my petitions. * **(Here name them or reflect on them.)** Obtain for all who have asked my prayers * all that is useful to them * in the plans of God. * And finally, * dear patron and father, * be with me * and be with all who are dear to me * in our last moments * so that we may eternally sing the praises * of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. *

FOR THE DYING

Eternal Father, * by the love You have for St. Joseph, * who was chosen by You * in preference to all men * to represent Your divine fatherhood * over Your Son made man, * have pity on us * and on the needy who are dying.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

Eternal divine Son, * by the love You have for St. Joseph, * Your most faithful guardian on earth, * have pity on us * and on the needy who are dying.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

Eternal divine Spirit, * by the love You have for St. Joseph, * he who protected your beloved spouse * most holy Mary, * have pity on us * and on the needy who are dying.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

(No. 670; C)

FOR THE SPIRIT OF WORK

Glorious Saint Joseph, * model of all who pass their lives in labor, * obtain for me the grace * to work in the spirit of penance * to atone thereby for my many sins; *

to work conscientiously, * setting devotion to duty before my own desires; *

to work with thankfulness and joy, * deeming it an honor * to use and to develop by my labor * the gifts I have received from God; *

to work with order, * peace, moderation, and patience, * without ever shrinking from weariness and difficulties; *

to work above all with a pure intention * and with detachment from self, * having always before my eyes * the hour of death * and the accounting I must then render * of time lost, * talents wasted, * good omitted, * and vain complacency in success, * which is so fatal to the work of God. *

All for Jesus, * all through Mary, * all in imitation of you, O patriarch Joseph! * This shall be my motto * in life and in death, Amen.

(No. 478; D)

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR OCTOBER

(assigned by His Holiness Leo XIII)

To you, O blessed Joseph * we have recourse in our tribulations * and having implored the help * of your most holy spouse * we confidently invoke your patronage also. * By that love * wherewith you were united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, * and by the fatherly affection * with which you embraced the Child Jesus * we humbly pray you to look more graciously * upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased with His blood, and to assist us in our needs * by your power and strength. * O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family * protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ; * keep far from us, * most loving father * all blight of error and corruption; * mercifully assist us from heaven, * most mighty defender, * in our present conflict with the powers of darkness; * and as of old you rescued the Child Jesus * from the supreme peril of His life, * so now defend God's holy Church * from the snares of the enemy and all adversity. * Keep us one and all * under your con-

tinual protection, * in order that by your example and supported by your help, * we may be enabled to lead a holy life, * die a happy death, * and come at last * to possess eternal blessedness in heaven. Amen.

(No. 476; F J)

"HAIL JOSEPH!"
"Ave Joseph"

Hail Joseph, Son of David, man of justice. * You are the chaste spouse of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; * you are the foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ .* Holy Joseph, Patron of the Mystical Body of Christ, * pray for us who ask your help * now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

FOR CHASTITY

Saint Joseph, * father and guardian of virgins, * to whose faithful keeping were entrusted Innocence itself, * Jesus Christ, * and Mary the virgin of virgins, * I earnestly ask you, * by Jesus and Mary, * these pledges so dear to you, * to bring me * to serve Jesus and Mary most chastely, * and to be preserved from all uncleanness, * with untainted mind, * pure heart, * and chaste body. Amen.

(No. 473; G J)

FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O blessed Joseph * who yielded your last breath * in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary, * when the seal of death shall close my life, * come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary to aid me, * and obtain for me this one solace I ask for that hour, * to die encircled by their holy arms. * Into your sacred hands, * living and dying, * Jesus, Mary and Joseph, * I commend my soul. Amen.

TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION IN LIFE

O great St. Joseph, * who were so docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, * obtain for me the grace * to know the state of life * God in His providence destines for me. * Do not let me be deceived * regarding so important a choice. * My happiness in this world depends on this, * even perhaps my eternal salvation. * Obtain for me, * to be enlightened to know the will of God, * to be faithful in carrying it out, * and to choose that state of life * which God has destined for me * and which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

(any personal prayer may be added)

(No. 274; P)

BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

O blessed Joseph, * how fortunate you were* not only to see God * whom many kings yearned to see * and did not see; * not only to listen to God * whom many kings yearned to hear * and did not hear * — but to carry Him and kiss Him, * to clothe Him and guard Him! * Pray for us, then, * O blessed Joseph, * that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. *

Let us pray *

O God, our father of mercies, * who deigned to let us share * in the kingly priesthood of Your Son Jesus Christ, * grant, we ask of You * that just as blessed Joseph * merited to touch and to carry with reverent hands * Your only-begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary; * so lead us to prepare ourselves * with cleanness of heart and holiness of action * that we may worthily receive * the all-holy body of Jesus * and merit eternal life * through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE PROTECTION OF ST. JOSEPH

O God, infinitely good, * who created all things by Your love, * ruler of the world by Your ineffable providence, * we offer to You our heartfelt gratitude * for the numberless blessings You have given us, * and in particular, for the special privilege * of receiving St. Joseph as our protector, * so full of love for our welfare. * With the help of Your grace * we wish to show ourselves worthy of Your favor * by patterning our lives on the life of St. Joseph * and thus fulfilling Your will in all things. * May we be worthy to be called true children of God, * brothers and sisters of Jesus, * sons and daughters of Mary. Amen.

O Saint Joseph, * foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ, * and true spouse of the Virgin Mary, * pray for us.

(No. 459; A K)

IN PRAISE OF ST. JOSEPH

I praise you, * dear Saint Joseph, * man according to the heart of God, * because you were found worthy * to be the spouse of the Virgin Mary * and foster father of the Son of God. * To you the Lord entrusted the care * of the holiest persons on earth. * To you He sent an angel * to reveal the wonderful mysteries of the Incarnation * as well as the plans of His holy will. * The graces bestowed upon you were numberless. * Yours was the privilege to live with Jesus and Mary, * to share their joys and sorrows, * to spend your years in peaceful work, * to be patient in every trial. * With the greatest fidelity * you followed out every inspiration from heaven. * With full confidence * you placed yourself in the hands of divine Providence. * God so ordered your life * that at all times you gratefully adored His loving care. * God will also take care of me * if like you * I live according to His holy will, * and if like you * I make His honor and glory the aim of my life. * O lovable Saint Joseph, * may

your holy life be an inspiration to me * when I find it hard to be faithful * in the practice of virtue * and in the fulfillment of my duty. * Help me to imitate your example * to trust in God's grace, * and to have the great happiness * of dying in the friendship of Jesus * and under the protection of Mary. Amen.

FROM THE VOTIVE MASS OF ST. JOSEPH

Helped by the patronage of the spouse of your blessed mother, * O Lord, * we ask Your mercy; * that you would make our hearts despise all worldliness * and love You, the true God, * with perfect charity. * You who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen.

(No. 479; E J)

FOR THE CONVERSION OF A SINNER

Joseph most just, * I earnestly commend to you * the salvation of a soul dear to me * and redeemed by Jesus through the shedding of His blood. * Great Saint Joseph, * you know how unhappy are those * who have banished the Savior from their heart * and how dangerously these sinners are exposed to eternal loss. * I beg of you, dear Saint Joseph * to call this wayward soul from the path of sin. * Enlighten this sinner, * call back this prodigal son (daughter) to his (her) father's embrace. * Do not desist from your urgings * till finally you have opened for him (her) the gates of heaven, * where he (she) shall bless you for ever * for the happiness in God * to which you have led him (her). Amen.

FOR FATHER AND OR MOTHER FOR THEIR CHILDREN

O glorious Saint Joseph, * to you God committed the care of His only-begotten Son * amid the many dangers of this world. * We (I) come to you and ask you * to take under your special protection * the children God has given us (me). Through holy Baptism they became children of God * and members of His holy Church. * We (I) consecrate them to you today * that through this consecration * they may become your foster children. * Guard them, guide their steps in life, * form their hearts after the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. *

Saint Joseph, * who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent * when the Child Jesus was lost, * protect our (my) dear children for time and eternity. * May you be their father and counsellor. * Let them, like Jesus * grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace * before God and men. * Preserve them from the corruptions of this world, * and give us (me) the grace one day * to be united with them in heaven forever. Amen.

TO ST. JOSEPH
FOR OUR BISHOPS AND PRIESTS

Dear Saint Joseph * who carried the infant Jesus in your blessed arms * and who for thirty years lived in family life with Him, * take under your powerful protection * those whom God has clothed with His authority, * honored with the dignity of the priesthood, * charged to continue His mission, * to preach His Gospel, * to dispense His graces and blessings. *

Sustain them in their fatigue and work, * strengthen them in their struggles, * protect them from the evils of sin. * Obtain for them the humility of John the Baptist, * the faith of St. Peter, * the zeal and charity of St. Paul, * the purity of St. John, * the spirit of prayer and recollection * of which you yourself are the model, * so that after faithfully dispensing on earth * the mysteries of your foster son Jesus, * they may in heaven receive the reward * promised to bishops and priests according to the heart of God. Amen.

TO ST. JOSEPH IN ANY DIFFICULTY

With childlike confidence I come to you, * St. Joseph, faithful foster father of Jesus. * I ask your compassionate intercession and support * in this my present necessity. * I firmly believe you are most powerful * at the throne of God * who chose you for the foster father of His well-beloved Son, * Jesus Christ. * O blessed saint, * you who saved that divine Treasure and His virgin mother * from the rage of His enemies, * you who with untiring industry supplied His earthly needs, * you who protected Him with fatherly care * in all the journeys of His childhood, * take me also, for the love of Jesus, under your protection. * Help me in my present difficulty * with your prayers before God. * The Sacred Heart of our Savior, * who loved you and honored you as His father upon earth * cannot refuse you any request now in heaven. *

So many souls have sought help from you in their needs, * so many have experienced with joy * how good, how ready you are to

assist us. * How quickly you turn to those who call on you with confidence. * How powerful you are in bringing help, * in restoring joy to anxious and dejected hearts. * Therefore do I fly to you, * O most worthy father of Jesus, * most chaste spouse of Mary. * Console me in my distress, * present my petition through Jesus and Mary * before the throne of God. * Most joyfully shall I praise Him and you, * most sincere will be my gratitude. Amen.

FOR A HAPPY DEATH

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, * I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, * assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, * may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

(No. 636; I)

SHORT PRAYERS

O Joseph, * virgin father of Jesus, * and most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, * pray for us daily to Jesus, * the very Son of God, * that being defended by the help of His grace * while duly striving in life * we may be crowned by Him * at the hour of our death.

(No. 477; D)

Help us, Joseph * to lead an innocent life; * may it be kept ever safe * under your patronage.

(No. 458; B J)

Be mindful of us, * blessed Joseph, * and by the power of your prayer * intercede for us with your foster Son; * make propitious, too, * your spouse the Blessed Virgin, * she who is the mother of Him * who with the Father and the Holy Spirit * lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

(No. 475; E J)

BENEDICTION SERVICE

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae coeli pandis ostium!
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni Trinoque Domino,
Sit sempiterna gloria;
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.

Amen.

(No. 138; H J Q)

TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui,
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui,
Praestet fides supplementum,
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio.
Salus, honor, virtus quoque,
Sit et benedictio.
Procedenti ab utroque,
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

PRIEST—Panem de coelo praestitisti eis;
(Alleluia).

PEOPLE—Omne delectamentum * in se habentem. (Alleluia).

PRIEST—OREMUS:—Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili Passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti; tribue, quaesumus, ita nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis jugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

PEOPLE—Amen.

THE BLESSING

While the priest blesses by making the sign of the cross with the Blessed Sacrament say silently:

MY LORD AND MY GOD!

(No. 133; R)

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God

Blessed be His Holy Name

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man

Blessed be the Name of Jesus

Blessed be His most Sacred Heart

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception

Blessed be her glorious Assumption

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste Spouse

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

(No. 696; E J [H, if recited publicly])

HYMN

Dear guardian of Mary, dear nurse of her Child,
Life's ways are full weary, the desert is wild.
Bleak sands are all 'round us, no home can we see;
Sweet spouse of our Lady, we lean upon thee.

For thou to the pilgrim art father and guide,
And Jesus and Mary felt safe by thy side.
O blessed Saint Joseph, how safe shall I be,
Sweet spouse of our Lady, if thou art with me.

O blessed Saint Joseph, how great was thy worth,
The one chosen shadow of God upon earth.
The father of Jesus — O then wilt thou be,
Sweet spouse of our Lady, a father to me?

LIST OF INDULGENCES

(Capital letter refers to the letter printed after indulgenced prayers in the body of this booklet.)

A—300 days' indulgence, once per day.
B—300 days' indulgence.
C—500 days' indulgence, once per day.
D—500 days' indulgence.
E—3 years' indulgence.
F—3 years' indulgence; 7 years' indulgence throughout October, after the recitation of the Rosary, and also on every Wednesday.
G—3 years' indulgence; 7 years' indulgence on each day of March and also on every Wednesday.
H—5 years' indulgence.
I—7 years' indulgence for each of these invocations; plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, for the recitation of each of these invocations, continued daily throughout a month.
J—Plenary indulgence under the usual conditions provided this prayer is devoutly recited daily for an entire month.
K—The following concession is made to the faithful, who, to obtain the aid of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the various spiritual and corporal needs of their lives, devoutly call on his holy name: 300 days' indulgence; plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, provided they have piously recited this same invocation daily for an entire month.
L—The following concession is made to the faithful who during the month of March, or because of some hindrance, during some other month of the year, have devoutly been present at a pious exercise **publicly** performed in honor of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 7 years' indulgence, any day of the month; plenary indulgence, if they have attended such an exercise for at least ten days, and in addition have obtained pardon of their sins, have received Holy Communion, and have prayed for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff. — The following concession is made to those who during the month of March have **privately** offered prayers or other works of piety to St. Joseph: 5 years' indulgence once on any day of this month; plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, provided they have performed this pious work daily throughout this entire month; but in places where such exercises are held publicly, this indulgence can be acquired only by those who are legitimately prevented from attending the public devotions.
M—The following concession is made to the faithful who have devoutly been present at a public novena

in honor of St. Joseph: 7 years' indulgence each day; plenary indulgence, understanding sacramental confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, if they have been present for at least five days of the novena; and to those who during this time have **privately** offered prayers in honor of St. Joseph with the intention of continuing this pious exercise for nine days, the following concession is made: 5 years' indulgence, once daily; plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, when the novena is completed. However, in places where the novena is conducted publicly, this indulgence can be acquired only by those who are legitimately prevented from attending the public devotions.

N—The following concession is made to the faithful who have performed some pious exercise in honor of St Joseph on the first Wednesday of each month: 5 years' indulgence; plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.

O—The following concession is made to the faithful who devoutly recite an **Our Father, Hail Mary,** and **Glory be to the Father** together with the invocation, "Saint Joseph, pray for me," before an image of St. Joseph: 300 days' indulgence; plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions provided they have performed this exercise of piety daily throughout a month.

P—The following concession is made to the faithful who devoutly invoke the holy names of Jesus, Mary, Joseph together: 7 years' indulgences; also see J.

Q—7 years' indulgence if recited in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

R—7 years' indugence. Plenary once a week if recited daily, under the usual conditions.

* * *

The "usual conditions" for obtaining plenary indulgences (as mentioned in this booklet) are confession and Holy Communion, the visitation of a church, and vocal prayers. The confession is to be made within eight days either preceding or following; Communion is to be received either the day before or within the next eight days; and those persons who customarily go to confession at least twice a month, or receive Communion daily or at least five times per week, may acquire all such indulgences without the separate confession that is otherwise required. Some vocal prayers (selected at option) are to be recited for the intention of the Supreme Pontiff at the visitation of a church or public oratory, as, for example, an **Our Father, Hail Mary,** and **Glory be to the Father.** (Canon 931, 934, S. Paen. Ap., 20 Sept., 1933)